

Method for Sputum Collection

A. Items Needed for Sputum Collection



1- Sputum Tube



1- Inner Aluminum Container with Lid and Absorbent
*Ensure that the black rubber gasket is inside the top of the lid.

1- Laboratory Report Form



1- Outer Mailing Container with Lid

B. When You First Get Up; Before You Eat Anything



- 1) Make sure your name is correct on the sputum tube label and on the lab form.
- 2) Write the collection date on the lab slip.



- 1) Remove cap, and be careful not to place your mouth on the rim of the sputum tube.
- 2) Take three good, deep breaths.
- 3) Cough deeply enough to bring up secretions (*NOT saliva*) from your chest.
- 4) Spit secretions into tube up to 10 ml. (*1 tsp.*).
- 5) Place the cap straight and tight on the sputum tube (*Do not place in a crooked position*).

C. When Finished

- 1) Place sputum tube into inner aluminum can (with absorbent material in bottom of aluminum container).
- 2) Wrap the lab slip around the outside of the inner aluminum container.
- 3) Place the inner aluminum container into the outer mailing container (be sure the address label is in place on the outside of the mailing container). The specimen must be mailed to the state laboratory or taken to the local health department on the day of collection. Sputum that cannot be mailed or taken to the health department on the day of collection must be refrigerated (*NOT frozen*).

